

REF No. DW71/63

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
1 March 1963**

**CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT: Peru**

1. General Nicolas Lindley Lopez assumed the functions of the presidency after the removal of General Ricardo Perez Godoy on 3 March. Admiral Juan Torres Matos resigned and was succeeded as junta member and Minister of the Navy by Admiral Florencio Teixeira Vela. The ministers of public health and of finance also resigned but their replacements have not yet been announced.

2. The junta thus has lost its two most moderate members--Perez Godoy and Torres Matos--and two ministers who were moderately inclined but ineffectual. Lindley Lopez, formerly closely aligned with Perez Godoy, seems to have come under the influence of Air Force General Pedro Vargas Prada, the junta member who has most strongly advocated suppression of the left-wing, anti-Communist political party, APRA.

3. All of the junta members have been opposed to APRA, and overthrew President Prado in 1962 to avoid serving under an APRA-dominated government. Until 3 March, however, Perez Godoy, Torres Matos, and Lindley Lopez have scrupulously observed the precedents of Peru's democratic tradition, at least publicly. Vargas Prada was the only junta member who wanted to include APRA members among the roundup of leftists early in January. The refusal of the other members to do so caused the beginnings of a split within the junta which reached a climax in the last week of February.

4. Vargas Prada had personally attacked Perez Godoy for his refusal to permit the junta to outlaw APRA. In an

effort to relieve the junta of public responsibility for outlawing APRA, Perez Godoy had tried to influence the National Elections Board to disallow the inscription of APRA candidates for the 9 June elections on the grounds that the party was Marxist. The board refused to cooperate, and the APRA candidates were inscribed on 1 March.

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6. The party may now be subjected to repressive measures by the new junta, including invocation of the constitutional prohibition against Marxist parties. This would have the effect of preventing APRA from participating in the 9 June elections. It is likely that APRA would respond with violent protests which in turn would probably be met with force. The armed forces could contain any disorders that might occur if they remain united.

7. The problem of recognition of the new junta by foreign governments does not arise since General Lindley was next in line for the presidency.

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